

professional brain workers, hold, "rightly
 vviingly, that
 they have a good deal more to lose than
 their chains "
 A revolution, well-mgh unthinkable in
 Britain, \would
 leave the real job still to be done * The
 transformation of
 the social and industrial machinery of a
 whole country
 takes time It cannot be improvised " There
 must, there-
 fore, not only be a plan of socialisation, but also
 one for the
 control over those industries and services
 that, m the
 transitional penod, long or short, are not
 "ripe" for that,
 and have to be left in private hands until
 they " ripen "
 The fulcrum of transforming change is the
 National Mini-
 mum "its universal adoption will be the
 foundation of the
 Socialist Commonwealth" So wrote the
 'reactionary
 Webbs" m 1920, aftei, as they mildly recall,
 twenty years
 of propaganda for a proposal that was not yet
 included in
 the "Now for Socialism" policy of the I L P
 That, again,
 cannot be enfoiced in the twinkling of an eye
 The use of
 Factory Acts and Trade Boards Acts to secure
 that

"no worker, however defenceless, shall fall below
 the National
 Minimum of subsistence *and leisure* for the time
 being prescribed
 by the Social Parliament,"

should be remfoiced by the Local Authorities in
 securing a
 similar National Minimum in housing and in
 public health,
 and by a National Minimum of Education,
 open to every
 boy and girl, irrespective of the means of their
 parents

Local Authorities must care for Town
 planning and
 for the countryside, there might well be set up

a Standing
Committee of parliament on "Common
Amenity and
Public Beauty " As effective instruments for
the execution
of this programme, they suggest price control,
publicity of
accounts, limitation of profits, and a reformed
tax system
"Measurement and Publicity" are the canons
through
whose application the "ripening" process may
be speeded
up Where expropriation is feasible,
compensation will be